

## BROADBAND EXPANSION GRANT APPLICATION

### For Fiscal Year 2022

<p>Primary Applicant (Name and Address):</p> <p><b>CTC Telcom, Inc. DBA Mosaic Technologies</b>  <b>North Chetek FTTP Broadband Expansion</b></p> <p><b>CTC Telcom, Inc DBA Mosaic Technologies</b>  <b>401 South First Street</b>  <b>Cameron, WI 54822</b></p> <p><b>In partnership with Barron County and Barron County Economic Development Corporation</b></p>	<p>Applications MUST be UPLOADED to ERF via the Commission's website, <a href="http://psc.wi.gov/apps35/ERF_upload/content/mymenu.aspx">http://psc.wi.gov/apps35/ERF_upload/content/mymenu.aspx</a>. Refer to section 2.3 for detailed instructions.</p> <p>Applications are due and MUST be uploaded to ERF no later than: <b>March 17, 2022</b> at 4:00pm (16:00) Central Time. <b>Late applications will not be accepted.</b></p>	
<p>Contact for further information:  <a href="mailto:PSCStatebroadbandoffice@wisconsin.gov">PSCStatebroadbandoffice@wisconsin.gov</a></p>		
<p>Date:  December 1, 2021</p>		
<p>The Public Service Commission of Wisconsin is seeking applications for Broadband Expansion Grants. The Commission may award one or more grants during Fiscal Year 2022 to public and private entities that meet the eligibility requirements set forth in Wis. Stat. § 196.504. This grant round will be funded with bond proceeds authorized by the Wisconsin Building Commission pursuant to Wis. Stat. § 13.48(30). As such, successful applicants are subject to the requirements of Wis. Stat. § 13.48(30). Successful applicants will demonstrate a clear and achievable plan to improve broadband communications services in one or more underserved areas in the State.</p>		
<p><b>Applicant Certification:</b> In signing this application, the undersigned verifies under penalty of perjury that the Applicant and its employees and agents have not, either directly or indirectly, entered into any agreement or participated in any collusion or otherwise taken any action in restraint of free competition with respect to this application; that no attempt has been made to induce any other person or firm to submit or not to submit an application; that this application has been independently arrived at without collusion with any other proposer, competitor or potential competitor; that this application has not been knowingly disclosed prior to the opening of applications to any other applicant or competitor; that all of the responses and representations of Applicant in this application are true and correct to the best of the undersigned's knowledge, information, and belief; and that Applicant agrees to, accepts, and will comply with all of the terms and conditions respecting this application and any award of a broadband expansion grant as may be established in a grant award Agreement.</p>		
<p>Name of Authorized Representative (Type or Print)</p> <p><b>Domenico Fornaro</b></p>	<p>Title</p> <p><b>CEO</b></p>	<p>Phone ( )</p> <p><b>715-458-5400</b></p>
<p>Signature of Authorized Representative</p> 	<p>Date</p> <p><b>March 16, 2022</b></p>	

## SUMMARY OF GRANT APPLICATION

Primary Applicant Name <b>CTC Telcom, Inc. DBA Mosaic Technologies</b>	Amount of Broadband Grant Request (round to nearest dollar) <b>\$443,898 (59.6%)</b>
Federal Employer Identification No. <b>39-1868406</b>	Amount of Matching Funds Pledged (round to nearest dollar) <b>\$301,000 (40.4%)</b>
Contact Name and Title <b>Domenico Fornaro, CEO</b>	Total Cost of Proposed Project (round to nearest dollar) <b>\$744,898</b>
Telephone Number <b>715-458-5400</b>	Project Name <b>North Chetek FTTP Broadband Expansion</b>
E-mail Address(es) <b>dformaro@experiencemosaic.com</b>	Type of Proposed Broadband Service (FTTH, Cable, DSL, etc.) <b>Fiber-to-the-Premises (FTTP)</b>
Grant Manager, if different than Primary Applicant	Grant Manager Federal Employer Identification No.
Grant Manager Contact Name	Grant Manager Email Address and Telephone Number
If the application proposes a public-private partnership, list the names, addresses, and FEINs of the partner companies or organizations <b>Barron County, 335 East Monroe Avenue, Barron, WI 54812, FEIN 39-6005668</b> <b>Barron County Economic Development Corporation, 335 East Monroe Avenue, Barron, WI 54812, FEIN 39-1779884</b>	
Brief Project Description <b>This project provides Fiber to the Premise broadband to unserved and underserved areas in the Town of Prairie Lake (North Chetek). The specific area targeted has 202 homes and businesses.</b>	
Maximum Proposed Download Transmission Speed <b>10,000 Mbps</b>	Maximum Proposed Upload Transmission Speed <b>10,000 Mbps</b>
Minimum Proposed Download Speed Available To Purchase <b>25 Mbps</b>	Minimum Proposed Upload Transmission Speed Available To Purchase <b>10 Mbps</b>
County or Counties served by this project <b>Barron</b>	Community or Communities served by this project <b>Township of Prairie Lake</b>
List of the broadband service providers, if any, currently serving the area the applicant proposes to serve <b>CenturyLink</b>	

Does proposed project serve an <u>unserved</u> area of the State, as defined in <u>Section 1.4</u> of the application instruction? (yes/no)  <b>Yes</b>	Is the Applicant certified as a Broadband Forward! Community or Telecommuter Forward! Community, or does the grant project propose to serve a Broadband Forward! Community or Telecommuter Forward! Community? (yes/no)  <b>No</b>
For last mile projects or component the expected number of Business Locations that will have access to the improved broadband service (i.e., total business locations passed or with new service access).  <b>4</b>	For last mile projects or components the expected number of Residential Locations that will have access to the improved broadband service (i.e., total residential locations passed or with new service access).  <b>198</b>
Of the improved business locations, how many locations are <u>unserved</u> ?  <b>0</b>	Of the improved residential locations, how many are <u>unserved</u> ?  <b>20</b>
For providers that are eligible telecommunications carriers will the proposed broadband service be available to Lifeline customers? (yes/no)  <b>Yes</b>	Are there any programs available for low-income households to access low-cost service or discounts? (yes/no)  <b>Yes: Lifeline and ACP for Broadband</b>
Is the internet service provider currently participating in the Emergency Broadband Benefit Program? (yes/no)  <b>Yes, EBB and ACP.</b>	Is the internet service provider currently participating in the Department of Public Instruction and CESA purchasing's Digital Learning Bridge? (yes/no) <b>Yes</b>
Did the internet service provider participate in the Public Service Commission's voluntary Broadband Coverage Data Collection in 2021? (yes/no) <b>Yes</b>	

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## Summary of Project Budget and Funding Statement – Cost Categories and Revenue Sources

## FY22 Broadband Expansion Grant Application

### Budget & Income Summary



Please complete this form using Microsoft Excel. A PDF copy must be attached to your application as page four. In addition, this form must also be uploaded to ERF in Excel format.

<b>Grant Applicant:</b>	<b>Project:</b>
CTC Telcom, Inc. dba Mosaic Technologies	North Chetek

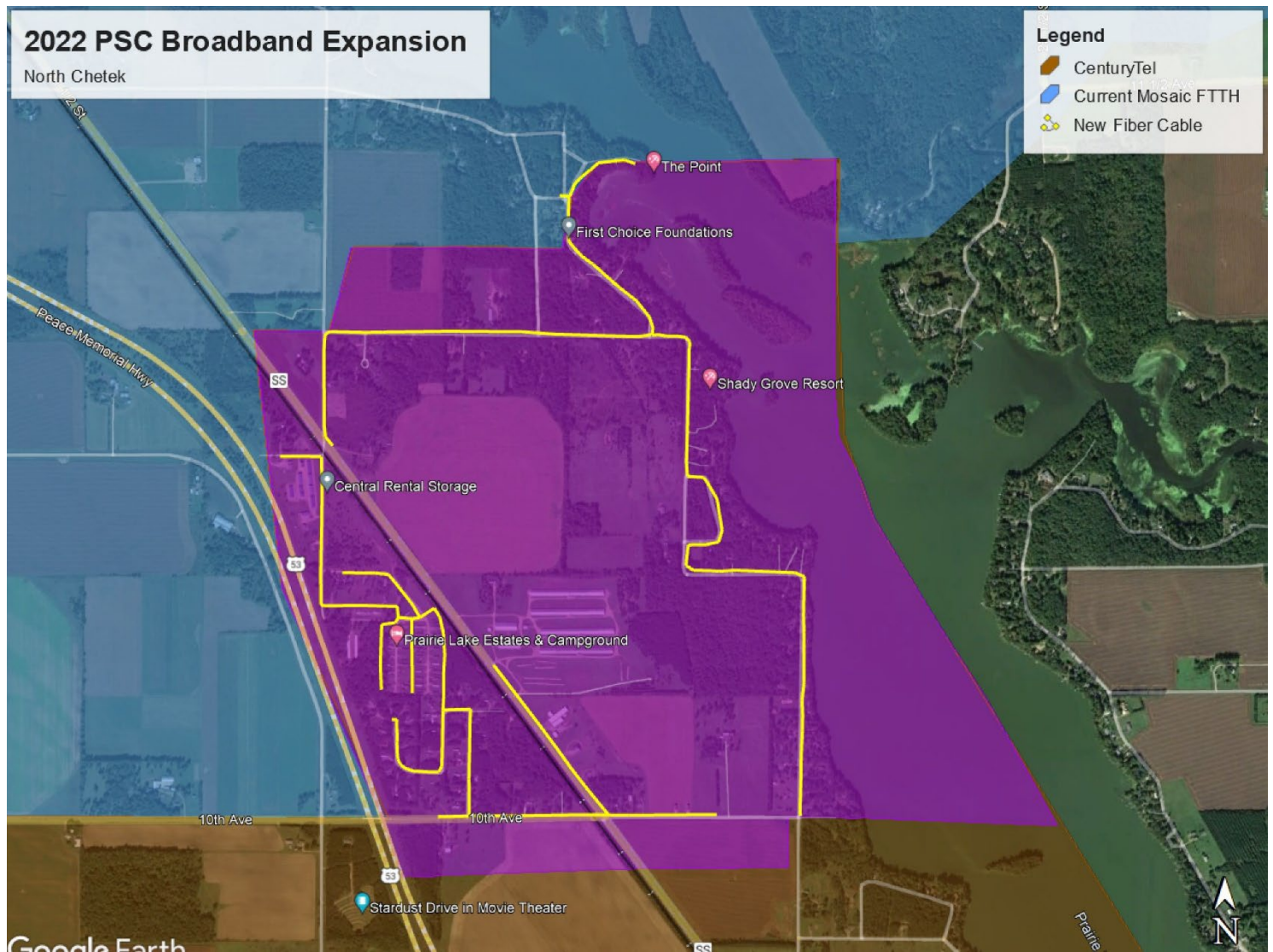
### Budget

Line:	Description / Category:	Grant Funds:	Match:	Total:
1	Contractual, Consultant Fees	\$ 246,763.00	\$ 301,000.00	\$ 547,763.00
2	Equipment	\$ 104,500.00	\$ -	\$ 104,500.00
3	Supplies			\$ -
4	Labor (Salary, Fringe)	\$ 92,635.00	\$ -	\$ 92,635.00
5	Permitting, Licensing Fees			\$ -
6	Travel			\$ -
7	Other			\$ -
Total:		\$ 443,898.00	\$ 301,000.00	\$ 744,898.00
				40.4% match requested

### Pledged Contributions

#:	Entity:	Entity Type:	Pledge Type:	Pledge:
1	Mosaic Technologies	Applicant	Cash	\$ 300,000.00
2	Barron County EDC	Partner	Cash	\$ 1,000.00
3				
4				
5				
6				
7				
8				
9				
10				
Total:				\$ 301,000.00

**Maps of Proposed Broadband Expansion in this Application**



## Executive Summary

### CTC Telcom North Chetek FTTP Broadband Application

CTC Telcom, Inc. dba Mosaic Technologies (hereinafter referred to as “Mosaic” or “Mosaic Technologies”), with the support of the Barron County and the Barron County Economic Development Corporation, request a Fiscal Year 2022 Broadband Expansion Grant award of \$443,898 (59.6%) to construct 6.2 miles of fiber past 202 unserved and underserved locations along the shores of Prairie Lake and the Red Cedar River in the southeast corner of Barron County. This project will deliver fiber-based, high-speed broadband where there are no options for adequate service. Mosaic and its partners will contribute \$301,000 (40.4%) in this rural hard to reach project.

North Chetek is in the Prairie Lake Township. Its industries today include tourism near the shores of Prairie Lake and farming away from the shoreline. As the COVID-19 pandemic exploded, residents were cut off from markets, remote schooling was challenging for children, and telecommuting options for quarantined employees were limited to non-existent. Tourism suffered greatly, but now with the pandemic receding, it can be an engine of significant employment and year-around income growth for the surrounding area.

Despite the opportunity for rapid growth, there is only spotty access to fast broadband services in the project area. The tourism industry, fueled by people leaving larger metro areas, as well as those living in this attractive remote area, demand access to internet in order to remain here.

Fiber broadband plays a pivotal role in shaping the future economic expansion to the area.

Mosaic’s solution is to construct a future-proof, fiber-to-the- premises (FTTP) architecture. To minimize long-term cost and damage to fiber, Mosaic proposes to install, splice, and certify service drops concurrently with main line construction. When completed, all residential and business customers will have access to broadband speeds up to 10 Gbps as well as voice and video entertainment services.

Neither the economic nor the social impact of this project can be overstated. Funding of this project is advantageous for the following economic and social reasons:

- \* Premises in this area are underserved for current and future communications needs.
- \* Expansion of distance learning for both traditional and non-traditional students.
- \* Telecommuting becomes an option for residents of the project area.
- \* Business can attract patrons through technology and compete on an e-Commerce platform.
- \* Lodges and resorts can attract and retain guests needing broadband connectivity.
- \* Elimination of barriers to efficient business operations.
- \* Rural/urban healthcare access divide reduced with telehealth capabilities.
- \* Real estate values objectively increase with fiber connectivity.

This project would be a major boost to the residents and small businesses who are stranded with very little internet access. Using its current infrastructure, Mosaic proposes a comprehensive solution, including fiber drops to every home and business. Mosaic has a reputation for providing excellent products and services at reasonable cost while also supporting the communities they serve. This project is a continuation of its legacy.

### 3.2 Mandatory application requirements

#### 3.2.1 Applicant identification and contact information

- a. The name and address of the entity applying for the grant, and the mailing address, telephone number and e-mail address of one or more contact persons representing the applicant.

Name of Entity:	CTC Telcom, Inc., dba Mosaic Technologies
Mailing Address:	401 South 1 <sup>st</sup> Street, Cameron, WI 54822
Telephone Number:	715-458-5400
Contact:	Domenico Fornaro, CEO
Email address:	<a href="mailto:dfornaro@experiencemosaic.com">dfornaro@experiencemosaic.com</a>

- b. If the application proposes a public-private partnership, the identity and contact information for all application partners.

This application is supported by a robust partnership between Mosaic Technologies and Barron County and the Barron County Economic Development Corporation. Both parties recognize the significant impact this project will have on the wider region. By providing fiber connectivity, the residents and businesses will gain broadband access at a level conducive to more than very basic connectivity. In these challenging times, this will provide a lifeline to this struggling area.

The following entities are collaborating to see this project completed:

Public-Private Partnership Agreement

Name of Entity: Barron County  
Mailing Address: 335 East Monroe Avenue, Barron, WI 54812  
Telephone Number: 715-537-6841  
Contact: Jeff French, Barron County Administrator

Name of Entity: Barron County Economic Development Corporation  
Mailing Address: 335 East Monroe Avenue, Barron, WI 54812  
Telephone Number: 715-637-6871  
Contact: Dave Armstrong, Executive Director

- c. The application must show that the applicant is an organization, a telecommunications utility, or a city, village, town, or county that has established a legal partnership or joint venture arrangement with an otherwise qualified organization or telecommunications utility, and as such meets the eligibility requirements set forth in Wis. Stat. § 196.504(1).

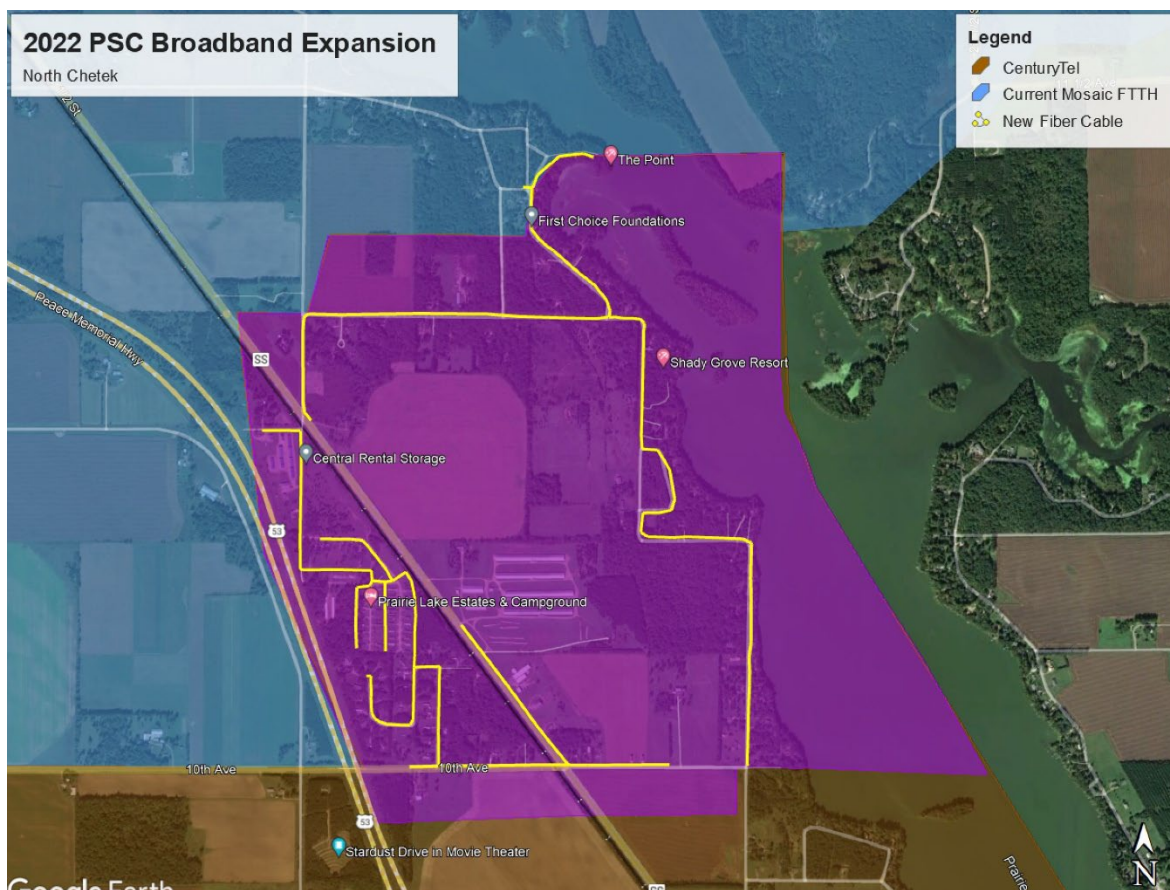
CTC Telcom, Inc. dba Mosaic Technologies, is an alternative telecommunications utility certified by the Public Service Commission of Wisconsin (PSCW) to provide service as an Alternative Telecommunications Utility (ATU) in Docket 1455-NC-100.

CTC Telcom, Inc. dba Mosaic Technologies (PSCW Utility #1455) provides service to the Rice Lake, Barron, Chetek, Turtle Lake, Cumberland, and Birchwood exchanges.

3.2.2 Description of the project

- a. A static map and description of the area of the state that will be affected by the proposed project.





Mosaic proposes a comprehensive Fiber-to-the Premises design to provide high speed broadband access to the residents of the Town of Prairie Lake. This project represents a one-year endeavor to bring fiber-based access to this severely underserved region in Barron County. Mosaic has trunk fiber located near the project area. Utilizing the scalability of Mosaic’s existing infrastructure will bring high speed broadband to over 202 underserved homes and businesses in a cost-effective manner.

- b. If the project area lies within a census block designated as served on the PSC Broadband Map, provide additional documentation to demonstrate the actual broadband service that is available in the proposed project area.

This project includes census blocks the PSC Broadband Map, as viewed on March 15, 2022, shown as served. There are some inconsistencies with the reality of broadband service and the 477-mapping data. The map shows CenturyLink incumbent landline, Charter Spectrum terrestrial and T-Mobile terrestrial wireless internet as the carriers causing the “served” designation.

T-Mobile claims availability of 25/3 Mbps broadband. Similarly, CenturyLink’s own Form 477 data would suggest a combination of 15/.75 and 10/1 Mbps internet available. No residents could verify either carrier offered these speeds. In the case of T-Mobile, local vegetation and distance from towers were the most likely issues. For CenturyLink no subscriber in the project area suggested an available speed anywhere near what was advertised. In fact, it was the near uniform lack of reliable and available broadband that led Mosaic to this project.

Charter Spectrum covers some areas along the lakeshore that may be in the project’s census blocks but claims 1,000 Mbps. Bandwidth levels have not been confirmed by the local residents or area customers. LTD Broadband, Inc. received an RDOF award in several census blocks in the southern quarter of the project area. However, it is doubtful they will demonstrate the technical, financial or operational wherewithal to complete any builds in this area by the end of 2024. LTD, for its part, has defaulted in several of its award states, and even if it achieves final FCC clearance, is likely to miss buildout milestones in this hilly part of Barron County.



C. An explanation of how the proposed project will increase broadband access.

The proposed project increases broadband access as follows:

1. As illustrated on the Wisconsin Broadband map, viewed on March 15, 2022, current providers claim various broadband speeds in the project area. However, there is also a variety of discrepancies as to the reality of the actual service level. Some of the homes are considered unserved, but in reality, all the 202 homes and businesses, while categorized as underserved, are unserved for any practical purposes for which they use broadband.
2. Mosaic will provide Fiber-to-the-Premise (FTTP) high speed broadband and internet access to over 202 homes and businesses whose broadband speeds are currently minimal, at best, integrating these areas within its existing FTTP network. FTTP connections offer more reliable access to internet at speeds that are not possible on existing facilities. This will include the construction of drops to each premise as requested. **This project is scaled for additional expansion in the near future.**
3. Symmetrical broadband at 1 Gbps and higher essentially future-proofs deployments for residential and business needs well into the future as new applications emphasize larger data uploads. Mosaic’s existing network infrastructure will easily handle these future demands.
4. In partnership with Barron County and the Barron County Economic Development Corporation, Mosaic commits to extending FTTP past 202 residential and business premises in the proposed project area.
5. As evident since COVID started March of 2020, telecommuting has become and remains a non-optional demand in the Town and surrounding area. Whether for work or online education, residents need to have the capability to reliably connect. Fiber internet is the solution to the recent telecommuting debacles.
6. Provides access to telehealth, video, and imaging applications for diagnostic and health maintenance visits. This option enables early diagnosis and prevents unneeded travel at inopportune or dangerous times. With the pandemic, healthcare organizations are relying on telemedicine more than ever to reduce unnecessary contacts for vulnerable people. The nearest hospital is 10 miles away in Barron. The Marshfield Clinic Health System, a financial supporter of another Mosaic grant application, has completed over 240,000 telehealth encounters since March 2020. According to their CEO, “The COVID-19 pandemic accelerated the move to delivering care via telehealth.” She also states, “Telehealth is not going away.”
7. In its commitment to provide fiber broadband services to all customers, Mosaic Technologies has constructed over 1,200 miles of fiber spread among seventeen different projects since the beginning of 2017. This will continue in 2022 as the company directs construction funding toward unserved and underserved customers outside of its cooperative footprint. Mosaic’s scalable FTTP network will not only meet the minimum 25/3 Mbps but will have the immediate capability of providing up to 10,000/10,000 Mbps.

Mosaic plans to offer broadband services at these prices to residential subscribers in the area. Mosaic’s conscious decision to provide symmetrical offerings—that is, the same upward speeds as downward—is an important forward-looking move to facilitate new and anticipate needs for work from home, remote learning, and telemedicine applications:

25 Mbps Downward/10 Mbps Upward	\$59.95 per month
250 Mbps Downward / 250 Mbps Upward	\$79.95 per month
500 Mbps Downward / 500 Mbps Upward	\$94.95 per month
1000 Mbps Downward / 1000 Mbps Upward	\$109.95 per month
10000 Mbps Downward / 10000 Mbps Upward	ICB Pricing is available

d. A statement whether the proposed project is targeting the “last mile,” “middle mile,” or backbone portion of the broadband infrastructure.

This is a last mile project.

- e. A description of the broadband service to be provided, including estimated download and upload speeds, whether the speed is based on dedicated or shared bandwidth, and the technology that will be used. This description may be illustrated by a map or schematic diagram, as appropriate.

Mosaic Technologies will provide its broadband service exclusively using a fiber-to-the-premises (FTTP) network. This fiber network is an engineered extension of Mosaic’s existing robust FTTP fiber network and Calix electronics that integrates into Mosaic’s network. The same technologies will be used to provide the highest quality of service to all new customers served by this application.

The locations to be served will interface with Mosaic’s fiber backbone. Multiple Ciena 100 Gbps capable backhaul terminals will provide a diversely routed Internet and cable TV service. Fiber optic sizes will range from two fiber strands delivered to each house (aka fiber placed to the buildings or “drops”) to two hundred eighty-eight (288) fiber cable on the main line route.

In many projects in these rural areas, customers are connected to main line cable only when customers have a desperate need. This project includes the drop installation to all businesses and residential locations as requested during the entire time frame of the project to maximize both cost efficiencies and fiber coverage. This approach is supported by Mosaic matching 40.4% of the project cost.

All broadband electronics used to provide broadband services will be managed to the same standards as in Mosaic’s existing fiber enabled service territory.

- f. For middle mile projects:

This is not a Middle Mile Project

g. A schedule by which the applicant intends to complete the components of the proposed project. The project period is up to 24 months. If the grant application for this project is approved in the early Summer of 2022, Mosaic will use the following deployment schedule, based on similar projects it has completed:

Fall-Winter 2022	Order and stage equipment and supplies
April-November 2023	Bury fiber distribution and feeder fiber
November 2023-February 2024	Install electronics at subscriber locations
January-Summer 2024	Turn up fiber-based customer services

While this is an aggressive timeline, Mosaic is confident the project can be completed. With excellent relationships with local construction companies as well as proactive supply chain management, this timeline will be met. The company recognizes how important an expedited project is to the residents of the proposed project area.

### 3.2.3 Itemized Budget (all amounts should be rounded to the nearest dollar)

- a. In addition to the Summary of Project Budget that is included as page 3, applicants should include a price list or quote for any equipment the applicant intends to purchase, including capital expenditures. The application should also indicate whether any facilities involved would be owned, rented, or leased.

Exhibit C – Construction Costs summarizes construction costs for the project. Engineering, some construction and some installation will be performed by Mosaic’s long-term third-party contractors under contract and under Mosaic’s supervisory control.

All network assets will be owned and managed by Mosaic Technologies.

- b. The application must show that the grant, if awarded, will not subsidize the expenses of a telecommunications provider or the monthly bills of telecommunications customers. For purposes of this grant program, subsidize means a contribution to the operating costs, including profit, of the telecommunications provider.

The grant funds requested in this Application will only be used for authorized purposes.

The applicant will not subsidize its ongoing expenses or the monthly bills of telecommunications customers. It is understood that for purposes of this grant program, subsidy means a contribution to the recurring service charges, operating costs, including profit, of the telecommunications provider.

- C. The application must show that the grant funds requested will be used for the sole purpose of constructing broadband infrastructure in the underserved areas covered by the application. Construction of broadband infrastructure may include any of the following:

Mosaic Technologies will use all grant funds requested for the sole purpose of constructing broadband infrastructure in the underserved area covered by our application. Construction of broadband infrastructure affirmatively will be limited to the following:

- a. Project planning that takes place during the performance period.
- b. Obtaining construction permits and Rights of Way.
- c. Construction of facilities, including construction of last mile infrastructure.
- d. Installation and testing of the broadband service.

Mosaic Technologies positively states that all grant funds requested in this Application will be used for the sole purpose of constructing broadband infrastructure in the underserved areas described in this Application.

### 3.2.4 Priority factors supporting the application

- a. **Matching funds.** A description of the matching funds the applicant will invest in the proposed project, if any. For each element, indicate the type of match (cash, salary expense, or in-kind contribution). If the application is submitted by a partnership, identify the partner responsible for providing each element of the proposed matching funds. *Note: The requirement for this information is satisfied via inclusion of the completed Funding Statement as page 4 of the application.*

Recognizing the impact this project will have on the proposed project area, Mosaic Technologies pledges a 40.4% match to this project, including \$1,000 from Barron County Economic Development Corporation.

Matching funds are accounted for on Page 4.

- b. **Public-private partnerships.** If the public-private partnership is memorialized in a joint venture agreement or other writing, provide a copy of that agreement. If the partnership has not been reduced to a written agreement, provide a short description of the management role, financial commitment, or other contribution to the project for each participating partner.
- In scoring this element, information regarding active engagement of diverse communities in the planning, permitting, or marketing of the project will be given weight as well.

Mosaic Technologies has entered into a Public-Private Partnership with Barron County and the Barron County Economic Development Corporation to complete this project. Please see Exhibit A for the partnership documents

- C. **Existing broadband service.** A list of the broadband service providers, if any, currently serving the area the applicant proposes to serve. In scoring this element, the following factors will be taken into account:
- The degree to which the proposed project avoids duplicating existing broadband infrastructure.

The FCC 477 data and mapping for this area shows there is CenturyLink and Charter Spectrum. CenturyLink reports 7-15Mbps download services and between 0.5-1Mbps upload in this area; well below the definition of broadband and reliable usage for consumers today. Charter Spectrum claims some overlap in this area with 1Gbps capable services along the lakeshore. No one has been able to support a confirmation of broadband service at the 1Gbps level within the project area. Mosaic is unaware of any infrastructure scheduled to become operational in the next year or if any existing provider will be upgrading facilities anytime in the near future.

- The application of a wireless broadband service provider proposing significant overlap with existing broadband service in addition to service to an unserved area will not be given priority consideration.

T-Mobile claims 25/3 Mbps fixed wireless service but there appears to be little to no mobile wireless coverage in this project area and there doesn't appear to be any wireless infrastructure scheduled to become operational in the next year.

- Provide a list of all landline broadband service providers (DSL, cable, or fiber to the home) and fixed wireless broadband service providers that overlap the footprint of the proposed broadband project.

CenturyLink is using ADSL copper wire services within this area according to the FCC 477 reporting and bandwidth levels 7-15Mbps download and 0.5-1Mbps upload in the project area. Charter Spectrum is using coax technology claiming 1Gbps capable service along the lakeshore properties within the project area. No one was able to confirm such high-level bandwidth availability. T-Mobile is listed on the Wisconsin PSC Broadband map as a terrestrial fixed wireless provider offering service well below their advertised 25/3 Mbps speed.

- If known, provide an estimate of the customers within the proposed footprint that are served by competing landline and fixed wireless broadband service providers, and the download/upload speeds offered by those competing service providers.

Mosaic is unaware of the quantity of customers served by other providers claiming service in the project area.

- Provide a list of mobile wireless broadband service providers that overlap the footprint of the proposed project.

The Wisconsin Broadband Map lists AT&T Mobility claims coverage in the application area, but reliable and reasonably priced internet connectivity is debatable. Other providers may advertise coverage, but it is unknown if subscribers to other providers' cellular services in the area.

- If known, provide an estimate of the customers within the proposed footprint that are served by competing mobile wireless broadband service providers, and the download/upload speeds offered by those competing service providers. (The presence of existing mobile wireless providers does not contribute to or affect the evaluation of existing broadband service in the project area for purposes of priority consideration but provides a more complete picture of the broadband options available to residents.)

Mosaic is not aware of any significant customer counts served by competing terrestrial or mobile wireless providers in the proposed project area.

- d. **Project impact.** A description of the geographic area and the population, both in terms of absolute numbers and likely users, which will be served by the proposed project. Indicate the number of anticipated residential and business customers in the project area, if known. Explain the speed and quality of internet service that will be available. Include information about the range of packages available for purchase. Provide details on any low-income access programs and steps the project will take to support adoption.

The geographic area served by this project covers 1.6 square miles along the western shore of Prairie Lake and the Red Cedar River north of the Town of Chetek, reaching 202 residential and business customers clamoring for broadband that will bridge the digital divide and offer opportunities to thrive, not just survive. Due to the seasonal nature of some residents, the population fluctuates to a great degree, but the relocation of current seasonal residents is inevitable with reliable broadband.

Businesses, in general, have struggled to stay open during COVID due to stay at home orders and shutdowns. However, even in "normal" times, area businesses struggle to meet the needs of potential customers due to unreliable broadband. Limited bandwidth has resulted in the loss of personal and professional opportunities including access to remote learning, access to telemedicine, receiving updates to agricultural databases or job application sites. This results in significant lost revenue to both businesses and a potential loss of jobs.

Mosaic projects subscriber participation at close to 65% for customers within the first six months. Based on historical trends and demographics of the area, residential take rate is projected at around 75% or 148 homes within the first twelve months.

Led by Mosaic's Fiber to the Premise (FTTP) deployment, the area will benefit through:

- Initial broadband speeds up to 10 Gbps symmetrical to all current and future residences and businesses to receive voice services, data connectivity and video. With drops to every home, these speeds will cover the entire project area. The most economical package for residential service will be \$59.95. Section 3.2.2.c. displays all offered packages.
- Government agencies and emergency services rely on broadband as part of providing its services. Buried fiber facilities offer impeccable reliability especially during crisis situations and natural disasters when other facilities may be destroyed. Residents will have access to 24-hour telehealth services.
- Residents in the project area have a minimum 10-mile drive to the nearest hospital. With fiber connectivity, remote diagnostic medicine, and health maintenance services, from pediatric to geriatric purposes, will be possible with simple laptop cameras and attached monitoring devices that are becoming commonly available. This brings the advanced care to the residents and eliminates unnecessary travel. The ongoing pandemic exposes the limited broadband as healthcare providers are encouraging patients not needing in-person care to remain at home to stem the transmission of COVID.
- Telecommuting: Like telehealth, telecommuting is becoming a norm and the lack of reliable broadband makes telecommuting impossible. As referenced in the accompanying support letter, State Representative and Barron County Economic Director Dave Armstrong recognizes that “once barriers to broadband expansion are removed, Barron County will improve its position as a destination for startups, expanding and relocating businesses, and telecommuters and working families relocating here.” These opportunities are completely dependent on upgrading inadequate broadband infrastructure through construction of fiber optic facilities.

e. **Scalability**. A description of how the proposed project could expand or improve the broadband service it delivers, while maintaining the quality of its broadband service. This description should include specific projected increases in the following parameters that are known at the time of the application:

- The number of users.
- The number of network nodes.
- The number of services provided.
- The geographic area served by the project.
- This description may also include a discussion of possible growth potential that is outside the commitment the applicant is making as part of its application.

This project is an economical extension of Mosaic’s current fiber network as the project area is immediately south of current fiber facilities. Very little transport fiber will be necessary to reach the proposed project area. In 2022, Mosaic Technologies upgraded its transport network to accommodate future geographic expansion as well as the influx of new subscribers. With the fiber infrastructure in place, any future broadband demands on the network will be managed without the need to place additional fiber.

Based on recently completed fiber projects, Mosaic projects over a hundred residential and home-business customers within six months of project completion. Beyond symmetrical internet speeds, all customers will have access to a full range of voice services offered over a VoIP protocol along with video entertainment options delivered on both an IP platform as well as an over-the-top (OTT) option.

At the completion of this project, Mosaic will have run 6.2 miles of fiber in the project area. As Mosaic continues to explore opportunities to serve underserved areas, this would be a potential growth area.

f. **Economic development**. A description of how the proposed project will promote job growth or retention, expand the property tax base, or improve the overall economic vitality of the municipality or region. This description may be supplemented with a letter from one or more persons discussing the potential economic impact the project could have for that individual or business. In scoring this element, the following factors will be taken into account:

- A discussion of potential economic impact the project could have for an individual business located in the project area.

Recreational and small business are the primary employment areas in the Town of Prairie Lake. Mosaic’s addition of fiber-based broadband services will allow residents to engage in hospitality service, e-commerce, work-at-home, and educational

opportunities that are not available today. Fiber-based broadband will be an economic boon for the area and surrounding resident and businesses.

- An explanation of how an improved download and upload transmission speed could better support a specific business in the project area.

Reliable broadband to the area will increase tourism as well as small business efficiencies and for the first time make area businesses competitive in the expanding e-commerce world around them.

- An explanation of the likely impact improved broadband service could have on residential property values, supported by local sales data if available.

Studies by the Fiber Broadband Association have shown that home values increase by an average of 3.1% for homes with fiber-based broadband. With fiber availability, it is anticipated that the demand for the available building sites will increase causing growth in property values and the tax base. Property values vary tremendously in the project area due to lakeshore proximity. Reliable broadband can create an average increased value of almost \$10,000 for properties in this area. Cabins, rentals and soon-to-be year-round home prices can expect to see even greater increases, along with higher employment opportunities to purchase them.

- A demonstration of how improved broadband service to a residential portion of the project could benefit a telecommuting population.

Recent surveys suggest 25% of residents currently telecommute, have the option or for personal reasons need to. Extrapolating that to the 198 residential locations in this application equates to 50 potential telecommuters. Arguably, that number could be higher with improved broadband access. These people benefit immediately from improved broadband.

- A demonstration of how the speeds and service being offered by the project fits with current and future economic needs of the community and local businesses.

The positive benefits to the economy from this project translate directly to higher real estate values, more home construction and remodeling, and an expanding tax base which benefits all residents in the area. Gigabit capable internet connects rural areas to the world and presents endless opportunities for those searching for a more rural lifestyle. State Senator Janet Bewley strongly endorses this project and believes, along with Barron County and Barron County Economic Development Corporation, that the broadband capabilities afforded the proposed project area will greatly enhance both current and future opportunities for this region.

- g. Effect upon broadband service to adjacent areas.** A description of whether the proposed project will or will not impair the ability of a broadband service provider or competing broadband service provider to extend broadband service to areas adjacent to the proposed project area.

Mosaic's proposed project will not impair the ability of any broadband service provider to extend service to areas adjacent to the proposed project area. On the contrary, the availability of FTTP will serve as a catalyst for demand in the other underserved areas where the incumbent, or others, could overbuild with fiber.

### 3.2.5 Other information supporting the application

- a. A description of applicant's history or experience constructing broadband communications facilities in the state and elsewhere.
- If applicable, an applicant must comment upon the status of all prior broadband expansion grant projects, including the type of broadband technology used, the facility route actually built or installed, the number of residential and business customers actually connected, and other relevant details of the prior project(s).

Mosaic Technologies has defined itself as a leading technology provider and is seeking to further expand its best-in-class fiber services to underserved residential and business customers. Mosaic's fiber product line is a permanent solution to bridging the digital divide. The below projects demonstrate our commitment to unserved and underserved residents in our expanding service territory.



**2017:** Mosaic completed a project in partnership with Indianhead Holsteins immediately North and West of the City of Barron. This project brought FTTP to thirteen unserved farms including a large family business that included a farming division, a renewable wood products division, and a live entertainment division which coordinates events for military troops deployed around the world. This was partially funded by a broadband expansion grant.

**2019:** Mosaic completed a FTTP project to nineteen homes North and West of the City of Rice Lake. These residences, located in an underserved area of a large incumbent carrier, now have access to 1Gbps symmetrical service along with voice and video entertainment services. This project was also awarded a broadband expansion grant.

**2020:** Phase 2 of the 2017 project extended five miles of fiber to reach eighteen residences along Highway T outside of the City of Barron. Those receiving fiber broadband included several residents who work from home in “on-call” positions including one in health services and the other an IT director for a local school district. Mosaic also received several positive comments related to providing fiber at such a critical time as COVID. This project was partially funded by a broadband expansion grant.

**2020:** Mosaic bridged the digital divide for thirty-seven customers, including eight businesses. These customers are located on a four-mile stretch of County Highway SS North of Rice Lake. While close to city amenities, they had inadequate services from a large incumbent carrier. Now they have access to fiber-based services with up to 1Gbps speeds. Wisconsin PSC awarded a broadband grant for this project.

**2020:** Mosaic, with assistance from CARES Act funding through the Wisconsin PSC, constructed fiber past 188 homes along the Western shores of both Upper and Lower Turtle Lakes. This project was originally submitted for broadband grant consideration as part of the 2020 grant cycle and was part of a larger fiber project that included the Village of Turtle Lake. This project was not funded in that cycle.

**2021:** In March of 2021 Mosaic was awarded three PSC broadband expansion grants; Town of Cedar Lake, Sand Creek, and Prairie Farm. Mosaic constructed fiber to approximately 1,215 homes and businesses around Red Cedar Lake (Town of Cedar Lake) in northeast Barron County and the Village of Birchwood in southeast Washburn County. All fiber construction was completed by the first quarter of 2022 for the Red Cedar project and all customers now have access to fiber services. Final grant documents were submitted in the first quarter of 2022.

Additionally, Mosaic constructed fiber past 1,453 homes and businesses in the Towns of Sand Creek and Otter Creek and the Towns of Prairie Farm and New Haven in southern Barron County and northern Dunn County. This project was also completed in late 2021. Final inspections are taking place and closeout is expected to be completed by the second quarter of 2022.

These three projects provide robust and reliable best-in-class fiber services to these communities. The successful completion of these projects demonstrates Mosaic’s capability in expanding their fiber network to the residents and businesses located in their surrounding communities.

- An applicant must also comment on broadband construction projects undertaken in prior years that were not funded in part by the Broadband Expansion Grant program.

Starting in 2017, Mosaic Technologies, embarked on a multiyear initiative to overbuild fiber in the areas of its six-exchange incumbent territory being served with copper. Since inception, the cooperative has plowed over 1,100 miles of fiber. As of today, the entire cooperative service areas is 100% FTTH. This project was funded, in part, through loans from the Rural Utilities Service (RUS), a division of the United States Department of Agriculture.

Over the past four years, Mosaic has self-funded multiple smaller projects outside its incumbent territory. In the cities of Barron, Chetek, and Rice Lake, Mosaic enhanced its rich copper network by vectoring its VDSL platform, bringing speeds up to 150/25 Mbps to residents in those areas. While this copper strategy serves as a technology improvement, the long-term solution is fiber. Starting in 2021, Mosaic has invested in fiber where current copper facilities exist in its competitive footprint to future proof its network.

Additional Mosaic Technologies self-funded fiber projects include:

- Turtle Lake – As mentioned previously Mosaic submitted a 2020 grant request for Turtle Lake. While this grant was not funded, Mosaic remained committed to bringing fiber to these underserved residents and businesses. During the spring and summer of 2020, fiber construction passed over 300 homes in the Village.
- Rice Lake – Starting in 2021, Mosaic began a multi-year initiative to replace copper facilities with fiber services to approximately 3,723 residents and businesses. To date we have completed FTTP to 473 locations.
- Chetek – Also starting in 2021, Mosaic began a 2-year initiative to replace copper facilities and construct new greenfield. To date we have successfully completed the replacement of all copper with fiber to 1,200 locations and have constructed greenfield fiber service to 350 new locations. This project is schedule to be completed in May of 2022.

All of these projects represent Mosaic’s ongoing commitment to bring best-in-class fiber services to rural Northwest Wisconsin. Exhibit D provides a history of Chibardun Telephone Cooperative, Inc. / CTC Telcom, Inc. DBA Mosaic Technologies.

- b. A description of how the proposed project will or will not duplicate existing broadband infrastructure.

Mosaic is not duplicating any likely expansion by CenturyLink in the proposed project area. Cellular internet services are uneconomical and often unavailable in homes and no incumbent provider infrastructure improvements are currently promised nor anticipated.

- c. A description of an applicant’s financial ability to undertake the proposed broadband construction project. This may include information such as the number of years the company has been in operation, documentation of successful completion of similar infrastructure projects, evidence that sufficient funds are available to cover project expenditure and match, customer turn-over rates, and credit rating.

Mosaic Technologies invests over \$3,000,000 each year in capital improvement projects through self-funding from operating income and EBITDA. The required time, resources, and provisional matching funds for this project have been factored into the Mosaic’s 2022-2024 capital spending plan.

Mosaic provides a record of its historical and current projects in Exhibit D below, reviewing its long and successful ability to manage and operate large construction projects.

Each year, Mosaic Technologies files its PSCW Annual Questionnaire fully describing regulated and non-regulated revenues.

- d. For middle mile projects, state the terms under which the applicant will make its middle mile fiber resource available to last mile providers. Without disclosing project-specific or customer-specific negotiated rates for service or access, state whether access to the middle mile fiber resource will be offered to last mile providers at a rate that is reasonable and common to the industry. Describe any restrictions or limits that may limit the availability or interconnection with the middle mile route.

This is not a middle mile project.

- e. For middle mile routes, state the amount of fiber capacity, by number of fiber strands in a cable, that the applicant has been reserved for public use. Describe any commitment or tentative discussion indicating the local government or State agency that might use those fiber strands, and for what purpose. Describe any restrictions or limits that may limit the public use (e.g., a possible use conflicts with an existing program covering the same subject matter).

This is not a middle mile project.

- f. A description of how the proposed project will affect the ability of individuals to access health care service from home, including any impact upon the costs of those services.
- Specific information from a hospital or clinic in the project area that currently uses or intends to use home-based telemedicine equipment to enhance access health care service would best illustrate this point.

The rising cost of healthcare, downward pressure on reimbursement to providers, and a lack of physician availability in rural areas, has caused a significant shift in the delivery of healthcare to rural residents. No longer is there a hospital or clinic in every town. Health systems have had to make the difficult choice to close the local facility in favor of larger regional health facilities. This creates a significant divide in critical healthcare access for residents in rural areas. With the advent of telehealth, the physician can return to making “house calls” by providing remote diagnostic and health maintenance services to a wide spectrum of patients. COVID-19 has “accelerated the move to delivering care via telehealth” according to Susan Turney, CEO of

Marshfield Clinic Health System (MCHS). MCHS has seen its telehealth encounters explode to over 240,000 since March of 2020, when measurement began in earnest.

Telehealth is possible with an affordable computer with camera, attached monitoring devices, AND high-speed broadband. Mosaic's deployment of fiber infrastructure provides the virtual highway to connect patients with their doctors. The time and cost of traveling to a regional provider will no longer be a limiting factor for those seeking advanced care.

Even cellular 911 service will function dependably from the home as FTTP broadband allows reliable WIFI services to modern cell phones.

g. A description of how the proposed project will affect the ability of students to access educational opportunities from home.

- Specific information on the likely number of students that will benefit from improved access to educational opportunities from home would be useful.
- Specific information regarding educational programs that are currently available for students in the project area would be useful.

Whether it be the primary and secondary students in the local school district or adults pursuing degrees in higher education, having access to the digital world for class resources is mandatory. With fiber broadband, all those seeking education would have access to online vocational and college level courses from limitless colleges and universities including the extensive University of Wisconsin online system. In this economically challenged area where many students live in poverty, fiber broadband can eliminate barriers to the educational resources students need to succeed.

h. A description of actions taken by a city, village, town, or county in support of the grant application that have not been discussed in the context of a public-private partnership above, including but not limited to:

- The contribution of funds, easements or permissions to use publicly-owned real estate, construction materials, or other items of value to the grant project.
- The contribution of in-kind assistance to the grant project in the form of waived fees and expenses for obtaining use permits and permissions.

Barron County and the Barron County Economic Development Corporation have entered into a Private Partnership with Mosaic Technologies and will support the project through waived fees and assistance with easements and utility right of ways.

- The contribution of other items of benefit to the grant project, such as public outreach and education, vehicles, water, etc.

Barron County and the Barron County Economic Development Corporation will assist in the promotion, outreach, and education for residents of the project area. Both associations have already demonstrated enthusiastic support throughout the grant application process.

- Certification as a Broadband Forward! Community or Telecommuter Forward! Community.

i. Letters and messages in support of the application submitted by prospective customers, local government officials, and other interested persons.

Local government officials, Barron Area Schools, White Construction and the Wisconsin State Telecommunications Association (WSTA) all are staunch supporters of technology infrastructure improvements in this area and their support documents have been included in this application under Exhibit E.

j. Any other equitable factor that the applicant desires to discuss, including one or more of the factors in Wis. Stat. § 196.03(6) that the applicant believes its project would advance.

Mosaic Technologies has long been a respected community partner in its serving area. We embody the ideals of hard-working Northern Wisconsin residents. This includes positively impacting the quality of life for our community members and promoting initiatives that advance the area and its residents. Most notably is Mosaic's commitment to expanding fiber broadband throughout Northwestern Wisconsin. That ties directly to our business operations mission. Beyond that, Mosaic has been a community partner by offering its facilities, staff, and assets to support the public good. Examples include:

1. Free use of its meeting facilities by many area schools, local non-profit and government agencies providing 1 Gbps internet, video technology, and technical support. Specifically, Red Cross Blood Drives, Barron County Office on Aging seminars, student learning, and OSHA safety training workshops.
2. Disaster recovery headquarters. When a natural disaster hit residents in Mosaic's territory, we opened our building to the displaced residents, collected food, clothing, and household items for those residents and provided space for Barron County Emergency management to run its central operations for nine days.
3. Support of local events. When lack of support for Cameron's annual community festival threatened to cancel the events, Mosaic employees organized events, coordinated volunteers, and operated many activities to keep the festival alive and promote civic engagement.

Mosaic's mission is to provide advanced technology solutions for an affordable price. With Barron County being an economically challenged area in the state, we are sensitive to the balance of charging enough to keep the company profitable while also respecting the limited resources of our customers. We understand the importance of universal service for the rural communities we serve as we are a beneficiary of universal support recovery in our regulated territory. Section 3.2.5.a of this application enumerates several examples of how Mosaic invests heavily into the technology infrastructure to promote economic development and provide services to diverse populations in our geographic serving area. Beyond that, we provide the personal element not readily available in more urban settings.

In discussing this element, the following information may be useful:

- Technical support and training materials that the applicant intends to provide.
- Information that the applicant intends to use to promote better broadband adoption and use.
- A description of a program or outreach to provide assistance to individuals of low income.

Mosaic Technologies offers 24/7 customer support through our Network Operations Center and contracted after hours support center. We are generous with our time and attention to making sure our customers are prepared when using our services.

Working through schools and community organizations, Mosaic promotes the use of broadband by educating community members on the advantages as well as the pitfalls of technology. Mosaic was the first small telco to receive Level 2 certification from the cybersecurity experts at Dynetics, Inc. and internally we have adopted stringent protocols on data security and prevention of cyber hacking and offer that as a service to our customers.

During the COVID pandemic, Mosaic created free, public use WIFI hotspots at each of its office locations in Barron, Cameron, Chetek, and Rice Lake to provide access to local residents who lost access when other public sources such as schools and libraries closed. We also partnered with the local schools to provide free internet to low-income students with no broadband access. Mosaic acts as a partner to our community, not just the big internet pipe to the world.

## Exhibits

**Exhibit A – Public Private Partnerships and Telecommuter Forward Ordinances**

**Exhibit B – Maps of the Proposed Service Area**

**Exhibit C – Construction Costs**

**Exhibit D – History of Chibardun Telephone Cooperative/CTC Telcom dba Mosaic Technologies**

**Exhibit E – Letters in Support of this Application**

**Exhibit A  
Public-Private Partnerships**

**BARRON COUNTY RESOLUTION NO. 2022 - 10**

**Resolution Supporting Mosaic Technologies, Inc., Cameron, WI, State of Wisconsin,  
Broadband Expansion Grant**

**TO THE BARRON COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS:**

1       **WHEREAS**, Mosaic Technologies, Inc. (Mosaic) located in Cameron, Wisconsin is  
2 interested in applying for and receiving a State of Wisconsin Broadband Expansion Grant, as  
3 announced by Governor Tony Evers on November 9<sup>th</sup>, 2021, to expand broadband infrastructure  
4 high-speed fiber lines primarily in the Township of Prairie Lake (North Chetek Fiber Expansion)  
5 and the Township of Almena (Township of Almena Fiber Expansion) in Barron County; and  
6

7       **WHEREAS**, Mosaic has been in business for more than 100 years and currently provides  
8 a multi-faceted array of quality telecommunications products and services; and  
9

10       **WHEREAS**, if Mosaic is successful in receiving these grant dollars, it is anticipated that  
11 the North Chetek Fiber Expansion will encompass an area of 6.2 miles of mainline, 198 locations  
12 passed and 1.6 square miles. The Almena Fiber Expansion will encompass an area of 27.75 miles  
13 of mainline, 319 locations passed and 14.4 square miles; and  
14

15       **WHEREAS**, these grant dollars will be used by Mosaic in continuity with other possible  
16 grant dollars such as American Rescue Plan Act Funding, Wisconsin Public Service Commission  
17 Grant Funding and Asset/Infrastructure improvement funds directly from Mosaic Technologies;  
18 and  
19

20       **WHEREAS**, this expansion of connectivity and reliability is a matter of economic  
21 development, education assistance (EC 3.1-3.5) which is critical to business expansion and  
22 educational assistance and which the Barron County Board of Supervisor supports; and  
23

24       **WHEREAS**, the drafting of this resolution has the support of Barron County Economic  
25 Development Director Dave Armstrong; and  
26

27       **WHEREAS**, due to the relatively short timeline for submitting this grant application this  
28 resolution was put forth by Chair Okey; and  
29

30       **WHEREAS**, this Broad Band expansion is in the following Barron County Supervisory  
31 Districts: (2022-2032 Supervisory District Maps)

32       #4: Supervisor Terry Lee (North Chetek Fiber Expansion)

33       #8: Supervisor Gary Taxdahl (Township of Almena Fiber Expansion)

34       #27: Supervisor Bill Effertz (Township of Almena Fiber Expansion); and

**BARRON COUNTY RESOLUTION NO. 2022 - 10**

**Resolution Supporting Mosaic Technologies, Inc., Cameron, WI, State of Wisconsin,  
Broadband Expansion Grant**

35       **WHEREAS**, the November 9<sup>th</sup>, 2021 grant announcement for the Broad Band  
36 Expansion Grant is estimated to be \$100M in total for the State of Wisconsin with this grant  
37 application estimated at approximately \$3M.

38       **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Barron County Board of  
39 Supervisors does by passage of this resolution fully support Mosaic Technologies grant  
40 application for the State of Wisconsin Broadband Expansion Grant, supporting broadband  
41 infrastructure improvements in Barron County; and  
42

43       **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that this resolution be  
44 distributed to the appropriate Federal and State Officials as necessary; and  
45

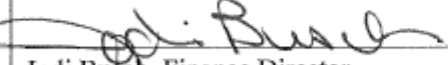
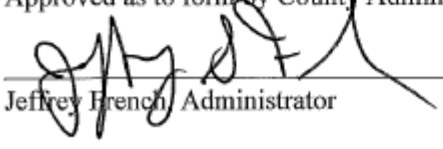
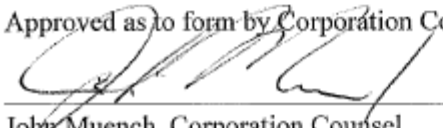

46       **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that publication of this resolution may occur through  
47 posting in accordance with Section 985.02 of the Wisconsin Statutes.



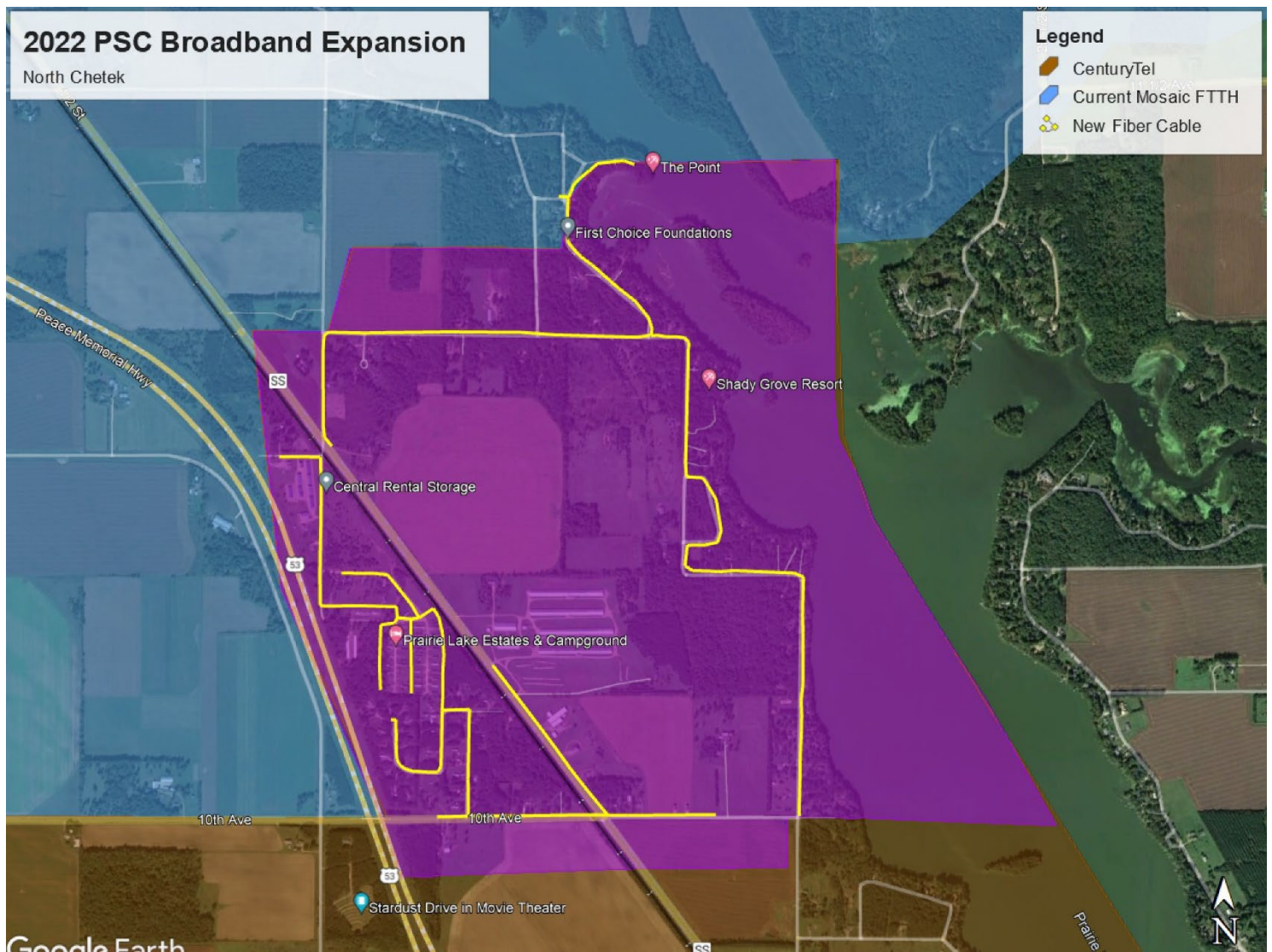
**BARRON COUNTY RESOLUTION NO. 2022 - 10**

**Resolution Supporting Mosaic Technologies, Inc., Cameron, WI, State of Wisconsin,  
Broadband Expansion Grant**

**OFFERED THIS 21<sup>st</sup> day of February, 2022.**

<p>Number of readings required: One ( <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ) Two ( )</p> <p>Vote required for passage: Majority ( <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ) 2/3 Entire Board (20) ( )</p> <p>Source of funding: Budgeted ( ) General Fund ( ) Grant ( ) Contingency ( ) Other ( <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ) Details: No County Funds</p> <p>Fiscal impact: - Current year total amount: \$ -0- - Future years total amount: \$ -0- - Effect on tax levy – current year - \$ -0- - Effect on tax levy – future years - \$ -0-</p> <p>Fiscal impact reviewed by County Finance Department</p> <p> Jodi Busch, Finance Director</p> <p>Board Action: Adopted ( ) Failed ( ) Tabled ( )</p> <p>Approved as to form by County Administrator:</p> <p> Jeffrey French, Administrator</p> <p>Approved as to form by Corporation Counsel:</p> <p> John Muench, Corporation Counsel</p>	<p> Louie Okey County Board Chair</p> <p>(The Committee Chair signature verifies the action taken by the Committee.)</p> <p>Board Action: Adopted ( <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ) Failed ( ) Tabled ( )</p> <p>Chair Okey gave an overview of the grant. <b>Motion: (Anderson/Heller) to approve. Carried.</b></p>
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**Exhibit B**  
**Map of Proposed Service Area**



**Exhibit C**  
**Construction Costs**

**FY22 Broadband Expansion Grant Application**  
**Budget & Income Summary**



Please complete this form using Microsoft Excel. A PDF copy must be attached to your application as page four. In addition, this form must also be uploaded to ERF in Excel format.

<b>Grant Applicant:</b>	<b>Project:</b>
CTC Telcom, Inc. dba Mosaic Technologies	North Chetek

Budget				
Line:	Description / Category:	Grant Funds:	Match:	Total:
1	Contractual, Consultant Fees	\$ 246,763.00	\$ 301,000.00	\$ 547,763.00
2	Equipment	\$ 104,500.00	\$ -	\$ 104,500.00
3	Supplies			\$ -
4	Labor (Salary, Fringe)	\$ 92,635.00	\$ -	\$ 92,635.00
5	Permitting, Licensing Fees			\$ -
6	Travel			\$ -
7	Other			\$ -
<b>Total:</b>		<b>\$ 443,898.00</b>	<b>\$ 301,000.00</b>	<b>\$ 744,898.00</b>
40.4% match requested				

Pledged Contributions				
#:	Entity:	Entity Type:	Pledge Type:	Pledge:
1	Mosaic Technologies	Applicant	Cash	\$ 300,000.00
2	Barron County EDC	Partner	Cash	\$ 1,000.00
3				
4				
5				
6				
7				
8				
9				
10				
<b>Total:</b>				<b>\$ 301,000.00</b>

<b>Construction =</b>	<b>\$ 468,563</b>
<b>Electronics =</b>	<b>\$ 104,500</b>
<b>Drop construction =</b>	<b>\$ 79,200</b>
<b>Pre-construction coordination and drops =</b>	<b>\$ 14,850</b>
<b>Splicing =</b>	<b>\$ 46,859</b>
<b>Engineering =</b>	<b>\$ 7,498</b>
<b>Inspection, project management, records =</b>	<b>\$ 23,428</b>
<b>TOTAL =</b>	<b>\$ 744,898</b>

## Exhibit D

### History of Chibardun Telephone Cooperative/CTC Telcom DBA Mosaic Technologies

Chibardun Telephone Cooperative formed as a cooperative in 1957. Prior to that, individual communities within the current incumbent footprint had their own municipal telephone operation. With changing technology and need for investment, community leaders decided to join forces to form one larger cooperative. The name Chibardun came from the three counties where the founders were located: Chippewa, Barron, and Dunn Counties (CHI-BAR-DUN).

Chibardun has always been considered a leader and key business in Barron County. We are very active in the communities we serve by participating in local events, supporting schools, providing scholarships to students, and donating money and in-kind contributions to local civic groups.

Chibardun is a premier provider of high-speed internet, video, and voice services, but also offers professional managed IT solutions, commercial telephone systems, and wiring installation services to businesses in Northwest Wisconsin.

Chibardun has always been on the leading edge of business ventures and service offerings. Some notable accomplishments include:

The introduction of both paging services and cable television in the mid-1980s, and the introduction of broadband internet in the mid-1990s.

**Late 1990s:** Chibardun formed a competitive company, CTC Telcom, Inc., and invested into the nearby communities of Barron, Chetek, and Rice Lake.

**Early 2000s:** Fixed mobile wireless Internet service through a 700Mhz licensed spectrum investment was offered.

**2009:** To more accurately reflect the broad spectrum of services that were offered, Chibardun adopted the Doing Business As (DBA) name of Mosaic Telecom. Branded as Mosaic Mobile, the company operated its own cellular network/cell phone service. Recognizing the economic challenges of providing the latest technology in an ever-changing cellular industry, Mosaic exited all wireless operations in early 2016.

**2016:** Management made the pledge to fully fiber the incumbent territories still using copper facilities as well as develop a long-range plan of expanding our fiber footprint in Northwest Wisconsin. With financial support from the Rural Utilities Service (RUS), a division of the United States Department of Agriculture, Chibardun began expanding its fiber facilities in early 2017. To date, Chibardun's entire incumbent territory is 100% FTTH. In recognition of its efforts, Chibardun was recognized by the National Telecommunications Cooperative Association (NTCA) with the Smart Rural Community award for its advancement of technology in its serving area.

**2017- Present:** Beyond the pledge to fully fiber the incumbent territories, Mosaic has dedicated significant resources to logical expansion of its fiber footprint to include competitive areas where the incumbent carrier has failed to improve its infrastructure. Mosaic has completed nine grant aided projects, with five in progress, along with self-funding multiple other projects to improve the fiber infrastructure to our region.

**2020:** Mosaic Telecom rebranded to Mosaic Technologies to reflect the vision of the company and its product offerings more accurately. Mosaic continues to grow and look for opportunities to bring broadband to rural, underserved areas. Being a small company, we understand the need to act as good stewards of our resources to maximize the positive impact to our communities.

**2021:** In March of 2021 Mosaic was awarded three PSC broadband expansion grants; Town of Cedar Lake, Sand Creek, and Prairie Farm. Mosaic constructed fiber to approximately 1,215 homes and businesses around Red Cedar Lake (Town of Cedar Lake) in northeast Barron County and the Village of Birchwood in southeast Washburn County. All fiber construction was completed by the first quarter of 2022 for the Red Cedar project and all customers now have access to fiber services. Final grant documents were submitted in the first quarter of 2022.

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These three projects provide robust and reliable best-in-class fiber services to these communities. The successful completion of these projects demonstrates Mosaic's capability in expanding their fiber network to the residents and businesses located in their surrounding communities.

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All of these projects represent Mosaic's ongoing commitment to bring best-in-class fiber services to rural Northwest Wisconsin.

**Exhibit E**  
**Letters in Support of this Application**



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**SENATOR JANET BEWLEY**  
**WISCONSIN STATE SENATE**

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February 18, 2022

Mr. Dennis Klaila  
Public Service Commission of Wisconsin  
Broadband Grant Review  
4822 Madison Yards Way  
Madison, WI 53707

Dear Mr. Klaila,

I'm privileged to have the chance to support Mosaic Technologies' application for a PSC Broadband Expansion Grant. The well-prepared plan in this application would provide mainline fiber broadband services to residents and businesses in areas where service is currently under-served or unavailable.

Crafted to support advances in a number of sectors that would benefit from broadband access, this proposal will allow Mosaic Technologies to improve emergency communications, foster economic development and create new access to health, education, and employment opportunities for members of the community.

While this application is for a smaller grant, it would have an exponential impact in east central Barron County, between Cameron and Chetek. This grant would not only provide immediate and vital access through 6.2 miles of mainline fiber passing 198 locations, but would also look to the future with ample opportunity for additional investment in the community.

I urge the Commission to take this opportunity to support the people and businesses of Barron County and give favorable consideration to the application for a PSC Broadband Expansion Grant through Mosaic Technologies. I welcome the opportunity to discuss this plan and my support at your convenience and thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Janet Bewley".

Janet Bewley  
Senate Minority Leader  
25<sup>th</sup> Senate District



**25th Senate District**

State Capitol: P.O. Box 7882, Madison, WI 53707-7882 ★ E-mail: [sen.bewley@legis.wi.gov](mailto:sen.bewley@legis.wi.gov)  
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## DAVE ARMSTRONG

STATE REPRESENTATIVE • 75<sup>TH</sup> ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

February 14, 2022

Chairperson Rebecca Valcq  
Public Service Commission of Wisconsin  
4822 Madison Yards Way  
Madison, WI 53705

Dear Chairperson Valcq,

I am pleased to support Mosaic Technologies' broadband expansion grant application to provide broadband service to underserved areas in Barron County, specifically the North Chetek project between the Chetek and Cameron that will improve access for almost 200 locations.

As Representative of the 75<sup>th</sup> Assembly District, I represent Barron County in the Wisconsin State Assembly, and I also serve as Barron County's economic development director, so I appreciate Mosaic's commitment to expand broadband service to an underserved portion of the county. Broadband is important for both residents and businesses, and Mosaic's proposal provides opportunities to these groups. As seen in the past two years, opportunities like these are crucial, especially in rural areas where traditional opportunities already require significant travel. Enhanced broadband will open up possibilities in an economically challenged area.

Once barriers to broadband expansion are removed, Barron County will improve its position as a destination for startups, expanding and relocating businesses, and telecommuters and working families relocating here. Barron County's proximity to both Minneapolis-St. Paul and Eau Claire provides huge potential markets that we are actively pursuing. New business begets skilled workers, increased home values, and increased tax base; new families expand and revitalize our workforce. The investment by Mosaic Technologies and the State of Wisconsin through broadband expansion grants will be of significant economic benefit to the residents and businesses of Barron County.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions at (608) 266-2519 at [Rep.Armstrong@legis.wi.gov](mailto:Rep.Armstrong@legis.wi.gov).

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dave Armstrong".

Dave Armstrong  
State Representative  
75<sup>th</sup> Assembly District



## WE BACK THE BEARS

*The mission of the Barron Area School District is to ensure all students reach their dreams while making a positive impact on the world.*

March 10, 2022

To Whom It May Concern:

The Barron Area School District would like to provide support to Mosaic Technologies for the broadband grant application in pursuit of bringing fiber to the homes in Barron County.

Families and in particular, teachers and students, would significantly benefit from this type of project in our area. We are a school district with a very robust 1:1 educational school-to-home technology program that has been in place for over ten years. Our educators have modified their curriculum and much of this includes technology-infused portions of instruction and curriculum. We find that it is a hardship for our families that live in this area to get adequate broadband service options. We estimate that 70% of our curriculum is online/digital format so adequate, reliable, home broadband opportunities are essential to our school-to-home partnership. This project would also help provide our students with equal opportunity for the instructional content that they are trying to access or complete at home. Many of our students are also enrolled in the BASD-ALAW charter school programming where 100% of their instruction is through online digital resources. Students of ALAW get their education in their home environments.

We believe that this grant, if awarded, would significantly benefit students, educators, and families of the Barron Area School District. Thank you for your consideration of Mosaic's grant application.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kelly Hoyer".

Kelly Hoyer

Director of Technology

Barron Area School District

Wisconsin State Telecommunications Association



President  
TIM KUSILEK  
President Elect  
JUSTIN HUEBNER  
Executive Director  
BILLESBECK

March 16, 2022

Chairperson Rebecca Valcq  
Public Service Commission of Wisconsin  
4822 Madison Yards Way  
North Tower - 6th Floor  
Madison, Wisconsin 53705-9100

Chairperson Valcq,

I am pleased to support the FY2022 Broadband Expansion Grant Program (BEGP) application of Mosaic Technologies (Mosaic) in North Chetek.

For more than 60 years, Mosaic has been a leader in the rural telecommunications industry. They offer quality telecommunications products and services, including high speed internet, video entertainment, and local and long-distance telephone.

The proposed expansion in North Chetek will install 6.2 miles of fiber, bringing future-proof fiber broadband to 202 locations. The cost of the \$744,898 project will be offset with matching funds from Mosaic and other local stakeholders.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration of this application. Please let me know if you have any questions or if I can assist with additional information.

Regards,

Bill Esbeck

122 W. Washington Ave., Suite 1050 • Madison, WI 53703 • PHONE: 608.256.8866 • WEB SITE: [www.wsta.info](http://www.wsta.info)



March 16, 2022

Mr. Dennis Klaila  
Public Service Commission of Wisconsin  
4822 Madison, Yards Way  
North Tower – 6<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Madison, WI 53705-9100

Dear Mr. Klaila,

White Construction has a mutually successful partnership in place with Mosaic Technologies. In 2021 we partnered with them to build PSC grants in the Prairie Farm and Sand Creek exchanges, completing roughly 300 miles of mainline cable within a tight schedule. We will soon be under contract to build all five of their awarded 2021 PSC grants. We are poised to make significant progress on that work in the coming months. One key element that impacts the success of these projects is that White provides many of the materials. This alignment works well for both parties and helps to avoid the supply chain delays associated with many key materials.

Mosaic is applying for Broadband Expansion Grants in Washburn, Barron, Sawyer, and Dunn Counties. White Construction is committed to making this work a priority and will supply key materials to Mosaic if they are awarded these grants. White carries a large inventory of fiber optic cable and other critical materials. We will be able to allocate a portion of that inventory to Mosaic's grant projects, thereby adding to the likelihood of successful and timely completion of the work.

Mosaic is a key partner of ours. We have a proven track record of completing large projects together in a timely manner and are well positioned to build on that success. Expanding this partnership offers a great opportunity to improve communication services in unserved parts of Wisconsin.

We support and endorse Mosaic's application for this and future Broadband Expansion Grants.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Joel Schultz'.

Joel Schultz  
Project Manager, White Construction  
[joels@whiteconstruction.net](mailto:joels@whiteconstruction.net)  
920-543-5687

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